



Manzanar/Independence 4-Lane Project Newsletter

Issue 2

Project Progress Update

We would like to open this issue of the newsletter by offering our thanks to all the residents of Independence for their patience as we work in town. The project team is well aware of the inconveniences that a project of this magnitude imposes on those who live and work in the community. We remain committed in completing this work in a timely fashion.



An asphalt grinder removing the existing northbound lanes in town.

The following is a brief update on the progress made thus far, as well as a look ahead at the work planned for the next month. The back page contains a calendar with the key operations listed for May. Please keep in mind that presently this schedule is our best estimate and is subject to change. The most up to date information can be found at the California Department of Transportation website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist9 or from

District 9 Public Information Officer Susan Lent at (760) 872-0603



Contractor places steel false work for the future bridge over the aqueduct.

Los Angeles Aqueduct Bridge

The new bridge is a single span, cast in place concrete box girder bridge. It will be approximately 200 feet in length and 41 feet in width and will carry northbound traffic on US 395.

The contractor has completed the construction of the footings with steel piles along with the abutment and retaining walls on both the north and south side of the aqueduct. The construction of the footings required the installation of a cofferdam system in the aqueduct to allow for dewatering and excavation in preparation

May 2009

of the driving of steel piles. At this stage, the contractor is erecting the false work that will support the superstructure during construction. Once the concrete has attained strength, the steel false work will be removed.



False work girders

South of Town

Work on the new northbound lanes has been moving ahead steadily. A total of 25 drainage systems have been built, grading and compacting the subgrade is nearly complete, and class two aggregate base has been placed on approximately 60% of the job.

An asphalt test strip has been scheduled for the first week in May. This test strip will allow the project team to verify that the asphalt plant is producing hot mix asphalt concrete that meets contract specifications and follows the design

submitted by the contractor and approved by the engineer. The test strip also assures that all the equipment to be used in paving is operating properly. Several density gauges are correlated during the test strip. These gauges will be used to check the in place density of the new pavement and verify that the proper compaction has been attained. Samples of the asphalt are taken back to the lab and a variety of tests are run to ensure compliance. If everything comes back acceptable, the contractor will begin regular paving operations around the middle of May.



Steel drum roller compacting class two aggregate base.

In town Work

Much activity has been taking place in the community of Independence. The contractor started work in town by placing temporary pavement on the north end of town and placing temporary delineation that shifted all traffic to the west side of the existing highway. Crews are moving quickly through town placing drainage pipes and electrical conduit that will serve the new historic style lighting.



Crew places 18-inch drainage pipe at US 395 and Kearsarge St.

Crews have begun to pour the drop inlet boxes for the various drainage systems. This work will continue into the first weeks of May. There are also some small retaining walls that will be built during this time.

Innovative Concrete, a subcontractor, will mobilize to the site with a slip form machine to pour the concrete curb and gutters. This machine eliminates the time consuming process of wooden form placement for the curb and gutter. Following right behind will be crews placing the new lighting, flagpole sleeves, and sign post sleeves. When, all this work is done, the new concrete sidewalks will be poured.

Concurrently, the contractor will be doing grading work for the new northbound lanes preparing them for paving. Eleven inches of asphalt will be placed as the new roads structural section.

Granite Construction is planning to have all of this work completed about the first week of June. As always, field conditions

vary making this a best estimate only.



Electrical conduit that will supply power to the new historic lighting.

Safety

With the upcoming activities we would like to offer some safety tips while driving in the construction zone. In the town of Independence lane widths have been reduced slightly and shoulders are minimal. Please be vigilant driving through town. With all of the construction activity, be aware of pedestrians and allow them to cross the highway safely.

When paving operations begin, there will be an increase in truck traffic. While entering and exiting the highway these trucks will be moving slowly. If you are following behind a truck, please be cautious and leave enough space between your vehicle and theirs to react as they slow down to exit the highway.

For more tips on safe work zone driving visit the Caltrans website

www.slowfortheconezone.com



Overhead View Of Falsework Placed Over Aqueduct



Excavator Working On Minor Road North of Independence